

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Replace the paragraph beginning at column 5, line 1 with the following:

The conveyor idler is rotatably connected to an idler shaft 14 which is co-axial with the conveyor idler. The idler shaft is formed from steel and in the embodiment shown in FIG. 1 has a diameter of 25 mm. The diameter of the idler shaft can be varied depending on the specific application. The ends of the idler shaft are fixed to a frame 17 of a conveyor belt arrangement ~~(not shown)~~ 19. The conveyor idler is rotatably connected to the idler shaft by means of bearing assemblies 16 which engage an inner surface of the conveyor idler and run on the idler shaft. The bearing assemblies are retained in position by end caps 18 which fit over the idler shaft and into either end of the conveyor idler in a press fit configuration. The end caps are made from a thermoplastics material and include a seal arrangement (not shown) which prevents the ingress of dirt into the conveyor idler and the bearing arrangements. A conveyor belt ~~(not shown)~~ 15 runs on the outside surface of the conveyor idler.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the following claims 19-43 as follows:

--19. A conveyor idler having an outer surface and an inner surface, a conveyor belt which runs on the outer surface of the conveyor idler, a shaft about which the conveyor idler can rotate in a forward direction, the shaft being fixed to a frame of a conveyor belt arrangement, a braking mechanism for preventing the conveyor idler from rotating in a reverse direction, but which braking mechanism permits rotation of the conveyor idler in the forward direction, the braking mechanism being located within the conveyor idler and includes at least one brake element which can move between a first position in which the conveyor idler can rotate in the forward direction, and a second position in which the brake element prevents the conveyor idler from rotating in the reverse direction thereby providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt.

20. The conveyor idler of claim 19, wherein the braking mechanism includes a brake guide for the at least one brake element.

21. The conveyor idler of claim 20, wherein the brake guide is secured to the shaft.

22. The conveyor idler of claim 20, wherein the brake guide has an outer surface with a plurality of recesses each having a brake surface;

wherein the at least one brake element is located on one of the brake surfaces and;

wherein the at least one brake element is moveable on its brake surface between the first position and the second position.

23. The conveyor idler of claim 22, wherein a plurality of brake elements are provided, with each brake element being located on its respective brake surface.

24. The conveyor idler of claim 19, wherein the at least one brake element is a ball bearing or a roller bearing.

25. The conveyor idler of claim 20, wherein the at least one brake element is interposed between the brake guide and the conveyor idler.

26. The conveyor idler of claim 21, wherein the brake guide is secured to the shaft by a key and keyway.

27. The conveyor idler of claim 22, wherein in its second position the at least one brake element protrudes from its recess and engages the inner surface of the conveyor idler.

28. A conveyor idler having an inner surface and an outer surface over which a conveyor belt can run, a shaft which can be fixed to a frame of a conveyor belt arrangement and about which shaft the conveyor idler can rotate in a forward direction, a braking mechanism for preventing the conveyor idler from rotating in a reverse direction, but which braking mechanism permits rotation of the conveyor idler in the forward direction, the braking mechanism being located within the conveyor idler and which braking mechanism includes at least one brake element, the brake element being surrounded by a circular cylindrical surface and the brake element being moveable between a first position in which the conveyor idler can rotate in the forward direction, and a second position in which the brake element engages the circular cylindrical surface and prevents the conveyor idler from

rotating in the reverse direction thereby in use providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt.

29. The conveyor idler of claim 28, wherein the braking mechanism includes a brake guide for the at least one brake element.

30. The conveyor idler of claim 29, wherein the brake guide is secured to the shaft.

31. The conveyor idler of claim 29, wherein the brake guide has an outer surface with a plurality of recesses each having a brake surface;
wherein the at least one brake element is located on one of the brake surfaces; and
wherein the at least one brake element is moveable on its brake surface between the first position and the second position.

32. The conveyor idler of claim 31, wherein a plurality of brake elements are provided, with each brake element being located on its respective brake surface.

33. The conveyor idler of claim 28, wherein the at least one brake element is a ball bearing or a roller bearing.

34. The conveyor idler of claim 29, wherein the at least one brake element is interposed between the brake guide and the conveyor idler.

35. The conveyor idler of claim 30, wherein the brake guide is secured to the shaft by a key and keyway.

36. A conveyor idler having an inner surface and an outer surface over which a

conveyor belt can run, a shaft which can be fixed to a frame of a conveyor belt arrangement and about which shaft the conveyor idler can rotate in a forward direction, a braking mechanism for preventing the conveyor idler from rotating in a reverse direction, but which braking mechanism permits rotation of the conveyor idler in the forward direction, the braking mechanism being located within the conveyor idler and which braking mechanism includes a brake guide and at least one brake element, the brake guide being secured to the shaft and the brake guide having a recess on its outer surface for the brake element, with the brake element being interposed between the brake guide and the inner surface of the conveyor idler, the brake element being moveable between a first position in which the conveyor idler can rotate in the forward direction, and a second position in which the brake element protrudes from the recess and prevents the conveyor idler from rotating in the reverse direction thereby in use providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt.

37. The conveyor idler of claim 36, wherein the brake guide has a plurality of recesses on its outer surface, each recess having a brake surface;

wherein the at least one brake element is located on one of the brake surfaces and;

wherein the at least one brake element is moveable on its brake surface between the first position and the second position.

38. The conveyor idler of claim 37, wherein a plurality of brake elements are provided, with each brake element being located on its respective brake surface.

39. The conveyor idler of claim 36, wherein the at least one brake element is a ball bearing or a roller bearing.

40. The conveyor idler of claim 36, wherein the brake guide is secured to the shaft by a key and keyway.

41. The conveyor idler of claim 37, wherein in its second position the at least one brake element protrudes from its recess and engages the inner surface of the conveyor idler.

42. A conveyor idler having an inner surface and an outer surface over which a conveyor belt can run, a shaft which can be fixed to a frame of a conveyor belt arrangement and about which shaft the conveyor idler can rotate in a forward direction, a braking mechanism for preventing the conveyor idler from rotating in a reverse direction, but which braking mechanism permits rotation of the conveyor idler in the forward direction, the braking mechanism being located within the conveyor idler and which braking mechanism includes a brake guide with a plurality of recesses each having a brake surface and brake elements located on the brake surfaces, the brake elements being moveable on their respective brake surfaces between a first position in which the conveyor idler can rotate in the forward direction, and a second position in which the brake elements prevent the conveyor idler from rotating in the reverse direction thereby in use providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt.

43. A conveyor idler including a sleeve having an outer surface and an inner surface, a conveyor belt which runs on the outer surface of the conveyor idler, a shaft about which the sleeve can rotate in a forward direction, the shaft being fixed to the frame of a conveyor belt arrangement, a locking mechanism for preventing the sleeve from rotating in a reverse direction, but which locking mechanism permits rotation of the sleeve in the forward

direction, the locking mechanism being located within the sleeve and having a shaft member fixed to the shaft, with at least one locking member which can move between an unlocked position in which the sleeve can rotate in the forward direction and a locked position in which the locking member locks the sleeve to the shaft member to prevent rotation of the sleeve in the reverse direction thereby in use providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt.--

REMARKS

The first paragraph at column 5 has been amended to add reference numerals 15, 17 and 19 to identify with numerical labels the conveyor belt (reference numeral 15), a frame (reference numeral 17), and conveyor belt arrangement (reference numeral 19). A proposed drawing correction to Fig. 1 shows in red the added reference numerals as well as a portion of a conveyor belt 15 and frame 17. Support for the drawing changes is found in the original patent text at column 5, lines 5-7 and lines 15-16.

This preliminary amendment adds new claims 19-43 to the patented claims 1-18. As required by 37 CFR §1.173(d)(2), these newly-added claims are underlined. Also as required by Rule 173, the status of the claims are as follows: all patent claims 1-18 and all added claims 19-43 are pending. Support for the newly added claims can be found in numerous places throughout U.S. Patent No. 6,527,097, examples of which are set forth below.

Claim 19 contains the features of granted claim 12 with the following added matter: "a conveyor belt which runs on the outer surface of the conveyor idler," (column 5, lines 16-17); "the shaft being fixed to a frame of a conveyor belt arrangement," (column 5, lines 5-7); and "thereby providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt," (column 2, lines 3-4). Claims 20-25 correspond to the same limitations as granted claims 13-18, respectively. Claim 27 is supported at column 5, lines 23-25, and in figure 1, reference numerals 20 and 24. (The plate 20 is the brake guide). Claim 27 is supported in column 6, lines 8-23, and in Fig. 3 (brake element 40, recess 32 and conveyor idler 12).

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Claim 29 contains the features of granted claim 12 and the following added matter: "over which a conveyor belt can run," (column 5, lines 16-17); "which can be fixed to a frame of a conveyor belt arrangement," (column 5, lines 5-7), "the brake element being surrounded by a circular cylindrical surface," (Figs. 1-3 -brake element 40, and circular cylindrical surface 12); "engages the circular cylindrical surface," (Fig. 3 -brake element 40 engaging circular cylindrical surface 12); and "thereby in use providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt," (column 2, lines 3-4). Claims 29-35 correspond to the features of granted claims 13-18 and 27, respectively.

Claim 36 contains the features of granted claim 12 and the following added matter: "over which a conveyor belt can run," (column 5, lines 16-17); "which can be fixed to a frame of a conveyor belt arrangement," (column 5, lines 5-7); "a brake guide," (granted claim 13); "the brake guide being secured to the shaft and the brake guide having a recess on its outer surface for the brake element, with the brake element being interposed between the brake guide and the inner surface of the conveyor idler," (granted claims 14, 15 and 18, and Figs. 1-3); "protrudes from the recess," (column 6, lines 21-23 and Fig. 3); and "thereby in use providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt," (column 2, lines 3-4). Claims 37-41 correspond to the features from granted claims 15-17, 27, and 28, respectively.

Claim 43 contains the features of granted claim 12 and the following added matter: "over which a conveyor belt can run," (column 5, lines 16-17); "which can be fixed to a frame of a conveyor belt arrangement," (column 5, lines 5-7); "brake guide with a plurality of recesses each having a brake surface and brake elements located on the brake surfaces," (granted claims 15 and 16 and Figs. 1-3); and "thereby in use providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt," (column 2, lines 3-4).

Claim 43 contains the features of granted claim 1 and the following added matter: "a conveyor belt which runs on the outer surface of the conveyor idler," (column 5, lines 16-17); "a shaft being fixed to the frame of a conveyor belt arrangement," (column 5, lines 5-7); and "thereby providing a braking effect on the conveyor belt," (column 2, lines 3-4).

Reissue of DREYER

Granted Patent No. 6,527,097

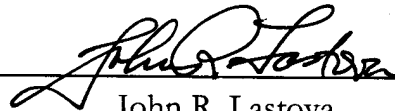
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Examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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